Restoration of Rajkot-Bombay daily flight

4911. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistant demand from the people of Rajkot and the Rajkot Chamber of Commerce for restoration of daily direct flight from Rajkot to Bombay and back.

(b) if so, whether instead of converting the Rajkot-Bombay service into a daily service, the alternate day service has been routed via Bhuj; and

(c) what are the main reasons for converting it into a daily-flight and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to operational constraints at present Indian Airlines is operating Bombay—Rajkot—Bombay service three days a week and Bombay-Ahmedabad-Bhuj-Rajkot-Bombay service twice a week.

Amendment of retirement rules

4912. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Acting Chairman and Managing Director, Air India (Shri S. R. Gupte) just before seeking his retirement, got amended the Rule, conferring the retirement benefits including free Air-travel and Medical facilities from 25 years continuous service to 20 years;

(b) if so, whether this amendment was approved by his Ministry;

(c) the logic behind this;

(d) whether, in the new set-up of the Air-India and the indictment of Shri Gupte by the Joint Parliamentary Committee for investment of Air-India's funds in a foreign bank, Government will consider restoration of the original Rule; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) On the demand of employees of Air India to bring parity with the provisions of voluntary retirement scheme in Central Government, Air India amended their services regulations, with the approval of the Government, for reducing the qualifying service for voluntary retirement to 20 years.

(d) and (e) No change in the existing regulations relating to voluntary retirement is being contemplated as the amendment was not carried out for the benefit of any particular employees.

Annual Plan in respect of Civil Aviation Scetor

4913. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the outlay approved and financing pattern of the Annual Plan in respect of Civil Aviation Sector for the year 1994-95; and

(b) what are the important projects and schemes under implementation in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The approved annual plan outlay of Civil Aviation Sector (Central) for 1994-95 is Rs. 1686.05 crores out of which Rs. 23.11 crores is the budgetary support, the balance being the internal resources and extra budgetary resources of the public sector undertakings under the Department of Civil Aviation.

(b) The important projects and schemes under implementation in the central sector are shown in statement.

Statement

Important projects and schemes under implementation in the Central Sector

1. *Indian Airlines*

(a) Aircraft Projects (Loan repayments and payments to manufacturers).

(b) Non-aircraft projects—

(i) Construction of hangar for A320 aircraft at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, administrative building at